

## **Teacher-to-teacher Talk In-Service**

Narrator: Welcome to this short in-service on teacher-to-teacher talk. The first question you're probably asking is, "what is teacher-to-teacher talk?" And you may also be wondering what it has to do with quality teaching and learning.

Teacher-to-teacher talk refers to the ways that the adults communicate and interact in the classroom. Positive and respectful teacher-to-teacher talk makes for a productive classroom. The National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning's Framework for Effective Everyday Practice supports school readiness for all children. Teacher-to-teacher talk is one feature of the foundation – the effective and engaging interactions and environments that are essential for quality teaching and learning. More specifically, a smooth running and well organized early learning environment requires that the adults in the classroom help each other by communicating in ways that help to maximize learning time for the children.

For purposes of this in-service, teacher-to-teacher talk refers to the teachers, aides, and other adults who work in a single classroom. Here are a few things to remember about effective teacher-to-teacher talk. Teacher talk is purposeful. Teacher-to-teacher talk helps to ensure consistency with classroom routines and rules. Teacher-to-teacher talk is a way to share information about the learning activities or about children's interests. By sharing information, the adults support each other. Teacher-to-teacher talk is also a way to create a sense of teamwork.

Let's think about what it means to ensure consistency with classroom routines and rules. Early childhood classrooms are busy places. There are many activities and many things to keep track of. Teacher-to-teacher talk helps teachers remember the schedule and remember what materials are needed and when. Teachers can help each other when something comes up, like a child needs some special attention, and make sure that all the responsibilities are covered. In addition, teacher-to-teacher talk is important for supporting teaching and learning. Teachers can help each other remember a child's current learning goal, or an effective teaching practice, or a strategy to support a child's positive behavior. Teachers can also remind each other of classroom jobs that need to be accomplished, such as collecting assessment information, or providing a child with enough practice on an important skill. Remember that teacher-to-teacher talk is a way to make the classroom run more smoothly. It should mean that there is more time to talk and interact with the children.

Just as important as remembering to communicate with other adults in the classroom is communicating in ways that are respectful and that build a sense of teamwork. To do this, teachers can use words like "we" and "us" and use words that are warm and caring. And teachers need to be aware of nonverbal cues, as well. Remember that teacher-to-teacher talk is one way that adults model appropriate social behavior for the children. The purpose of this short in-service has been to highlight the importance of purposeful and respectful teacher-to-teacher talk.

Teachers talk to each other to increase consistency in the classroom, to share information, and to build a sense of teamwork.

This in-service can be used in conjunction with our in-service on Zoning to maximize staff efficiency, to help achieve a well-organized classroom, and to increase learning opportunities for children. There are also tips and tools for you to use to help create a more productive classroom. Thank you for listening.

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